

2009 ESSAY CONTEST INFORMATION

Cash Prize Available for Winners

WHO: The Erie County Legislators who represent the City of Buffalo, Maria R. Whyte (D), Lynn Marinelli (D), Betty Jean Grant (D), Dan Kozub (D), Tim Kennedy (D), and Barbara Miller-Williams are proud to sponsor a 2009 “*Presidential Impact*” Essay Contest. This contest is for all high school students attending Buffalo’s Public, Private, and Parochial Schools. The Legislators recognize the cultural importance of Obama’s Inauguration to the Office of President of the United States. They would like to take this opportunity to invite high school students to reflect upon the significance of Democracy, Presidential Impact, and what it means to them.

WHAT: The “*Presidential Impact*” Essay Contest might serve as a tool for teachers to use in their classrooms or for community center and library after school program instructors. Teachers are encouraged to discuss and promote (perhaps by offering extra credit) the Essay Contest with students. Along with this informational page, please find a student outline for distribution, and a flyer to post. Submissions will be accepted in both English and Spanish. The essay should be a maximum of 500 words.

WHERE: All high school students in the City of Buffalo are encouraged to enter an essay.

WHY: This year’s historic election of Barack Obama has meant many things to many people. Legislator Grant stated, “This election has such a special place in my heart. I would love to share this moment with as many people as possible, and especially with the youth in our community.” Students are encouraged to learn about and participate in the Inauguration of President Elect Obama and to reflect upon the theme of “*Presidential Impact*”.

WHEN: The essay contest will be announced on Monday, January 19th. Students may submit their essays anytime after Obama’s Inauguration on Tuesday, January 20th. Submissions will be accepted until Friday, February 13th. The essays will be judged by a small selection committee. The winners will be announced on Tuesday, February 17th and honored with Proclamations during the Legislature’s Session on Thursday, February 19th at 2pm. ***Prizes include: \$100 savings bond for 1st place, \$75 savings bond for 2nd place, and a \$50 savings bond for 3rd place.***

HOW: Students should be advised of the Essay Contest through schools, libraries, and community centers. Hard copies of the essays should be mailed to:

Legislator Maria Whyte
Attn: 2009 Essay Contest
286 Lafayette Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14213

If there are any questions, please contact Legislator Whyte’s District Office (716.874.3257).

2009 Essay Contest
“Presidential Impact”
Student Outline

Name: _____

Important Dates to Remember:

Submission Deadline	Monday, February 16th, 2009
Winners Announced	Tuesday, February 17th
Winners Publicly Honored at the Erie County Legislature (Cash Prizes Presented)	Thursday, February 19th

Dear students,

Hello and welcome to our 2009 *“Presidential Impact”* Essay Contest. Please consider the questions below as guidelines for writing your essay:

- What does the election of President Barack Obama mean to you?
- What impact does the President have on American society?
- What do you hope for the future of our country?
- What advise would you give President Obama?

Essays may be submitted in either English or Spanish. The final essay should be a maximum of 500 words. Thank you for your participation and we look forward to reading your essays soon!

Sincerely,

Lynn Marinelli
11th District Erie County Legislator and Chairperson of the Legislature

Maria R. Whyte
6th District Erie County Legislator and Majority Leader

Betty Jean Grant
7th District Erie County Legislator

Dan Kozub
1st District Erie County Legislator

Tim Kennedy
2nd District Erie County Legislator

Barbara Miller-Williams
3rd District Erie County Legislator